



## WHO ARE YOU, GOD?

“How Do I Know You Love Me, God?” 1 John 4:7-21

No. 3433

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Karl Barth, the eminent theologian, when asked, “What, in your opinion, is the most profound theological truth?” answered simply by quoting the children’s chorus, “Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.” But what does it mean and can I be sure?

### I. I Know Because of the Objective Truth of God’s Love.

A. “God is love.” vv. 8, 16

1. “God is love” cannot be turned around to say, “Love is god.”
2. “God is love” does not cancel other aspects of His character.
3. “God is love” does not say God is *‘eros’* – egotistic love.
4. “God is love” does not say God is *‘philia’* – mutualistic love.
5. “God is love” does say God is *‘agape’* – altruistic love.

“A consuming passion for the well being of others.” F. F. Bruce

B. “Love comes from God.” v. 7

1. It is “*the* love” that comes from God.
2. This love has no other source—it is unique. See Romans 5:8

C. “This is how God showed His love among us.” v. 9

1. It was not a response to our love—“not that we loved God.”
2. It was an initiative that “sent His one and only Son into the world.”
3. It was intended so that “we might live through Him.” See John 10:10
4. It involved the Son becoming “an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

### II. I Know Because of the Subjective Experience of God’s Love.

A. An inner peace that comes from forgiveness—Paul’s experience. Galatians 2:20

B. A sense of confidence despite failure—disciples’ imperfections. John 15:9

C. An assurance of His presence in the midst of trial—Martha and Mary. John 11:5

### III. I Know Because of the Explosive Power of God’s Love.

A. The power of God’s love at work in devotion.

1. Loving the church.
2. Loving “one another” through the indwelling Spirit. vv. 7, 12-13

B. The power of God’s love at work in the world. Transformed vision because “Christ’s love compels us.” 2 Corinthians 5:14

C. The power of God’s love in the home. Christ’s love for the church stimulates sacrificial love in the home. Ephesians 5

**Point to Ponder:** I know I am loved by God when His love fills me and overflows.